

REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF 1934!

THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 1328 SECOND STREET NORTH

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1941

MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Stand all as
one
Till right
is done!
Believe and
dare and do!

MINNESOTA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

FIVE CENTS

Blair's Refusal to Grant Drivers' Elections Is Challenged by 544-CIO in District Court

New Republic Magazine Says

Indictments Here Are Most Serious Issue Of Civil Liberties

Liberal Magazine Calls Department of Justice Action Against Local 544-CIO "One of the Most Extraordinary Affairs in the Whole History of the Department of Justice"—Such a Violation of Democratic Rights as Appears to Be Involved Would Be Worth Ten Divisions to Hitler, New Republic Writes

(In its issue of July 28th the New Republic, liberal magazine, carried the following editorial entitled "Civil Liberties in Minneapolis." The New Republic in its editorial comment joins the Nation magazine in pointing out to liberals throughout the United States the grave abuse of civil liberties threatened in Minneapolis.)

Twenty-nine people have been indicted in Minneapolis on the ground of advocating the overthrow of the government of the United States by armed force. This is one of the most serious issues involving civil liberties to arise in the United States in many years.

Whether the action was politically motivated or not, it is one of the most extraordinary affairs in the whole history of the Department of Justice. One has to go back to the Great War and the hysteria of the years just following for any sort of parallel. It is tacitly admitted in Washington that this is a prosecution for opinion only. The action is taken partly under a law governing "seditious conspiracy," enacted during the American Civil War, and partly under the Smith Act, introduced in 1939. The Smith Act makes it illegal to advocate "the overthrow of the government by force or violence," even though you never do anything to put your ideas into effect. Spokesmen for the Socialist Workers' Party insist that they do not even engage in such advocacy. Invariably it has been found in practice that such laws could be stretched almost indefinitely.

For many years Justices Holmes and Brandeis voted for the defendants in cases like these, on appeal to the Supreme Court (usually in the minority). In a famous phrase, they held that men should not be

punished for advocacy of revolution unless there was "a clear and present danger" to our society. Mr. Justice Holmes in a historic dissent in the Abrams case, in 1919, spoke approvingly of "free trade in ideas"—that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and the truth is the only ground upon which [men's] wishes safely can be carried out. . . . I think we should be sternly vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe and believe to be fraught with death unless they so imminently threaten immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check is required to save the country." In subsequent decisions, Justices Holmes and Brandeis repeatedly held that members of various revolutionary sects had not placed the country in any "clear and present danger."

That the Minneapolis case is tremendously important goes without saying. President Roosevelt and Acting Attorney General Francis Biddle have repeatedly promised that there would be no such violations of civil liberties as stained the honor of America in the last war. For a country preparing to fight for the principles of democracy now to violate those principles either in hysterical fear of a little handful of theoretical Communists, or as part of a sordid political maneuver to help the AFL and hurt the CIO, would be unforgivable; it would be worth ten divisions to Hitler. For that reason we ask our readers to suspend judgment until the facts are a little clearer. We promise to report fully and promptly on those facts.

Reprinted from Austin Unionist

Austin Drivers Dispose of Thugs Sent In by Tobin

Under the heading "AFL FAKERS CRASH CIO MEETING," the Austin Unionist in its August 1st issue describes the unsuccessful efforts of Tobin thugs to gain a foothold among the drivers of Austin, Minnesota, all of whom followed Local 544 into the CIO.

The Austin Unionist story follows:

Some weeks ago Local Union 778, General Drivers, voted by unanimous ballot to call a special meeting to consider disaffiliation with the AFL and to affiliate with the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, CIO.

The special meeting was held on June 15, 1941. At the meeting, past relations of Local 778 with the AFL were reviewed in detail and the rank and file were in unanimous accord with a motion to disaffiliate with the IBT-AFL and the Tobin strong-arm method of union dictatorship.

It was then decided by unanimous ballot that 778 apply for a charter under the CIO.

Immediately Tobin and his first lieutenants shipped an army of sixteen or more thugs to Austin to threaten and intimidate workers on the job and on the street into signing back with AFL. It is believed, and not without reason, that since June 16th there have been as many as forty of the so-

tion of the character of Tobin's hirelings.

On Tuesday night, Tobin's boys again burst in on a union meeting. Every member at the meeting demanded simultaneously that they leave. However, Tobin's men displayed their gangster breeding by placing their backs to the wall and acclaiming that they were our superiors and that they would not leave! The rank and file then, up on their feet, began to yell, "Throw them out!" At this point Ollman in an attempt to avoid trouble called the local police and had the AFL thugs removed.

Every man in the meeting voiced his intention of remaining loyal and defending the right of Local 778 to be CIO.

The membership of 778 declare they will use all means within the law to defend themselves against the threatened action of Tobin's chosen ruffian, but they also wish to inform the union members and the public of Austin that if serious trouble starts they will defend themselves in whatever way seems appropriate at that time.

The difficult is that which we can do today; the impossible takes a little longer.—FRIDTJOF NANSSEN.

A lie can cover the earth while the truth is putting on its shoes.

Motor Transport and Allied Workers

All Out Monday Night for 544-CIO Membership Meet

A number of important reports are listed on the agenda for the regular membership meeting of the Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO, to be held next Monday, August 11th, in the union headquarters, 1328 Second street North, 8 p. m.

All union members—drivers, helpers, warehousemen—are urged to attend this important meeting.

Frank Barnhart, regional director of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee and personal representative of John L. Lewis, will report on the progress of the CIO campaign in organizing its new industrial union among the nation's motor transport workers.

Union attorneys will report on the hearings on the 544-CIO election petitions, and on recent court actions initiated to force Blair to abide by the law and to order the elections.

A report will be made on the federal "conspiracy" indictments against sixteen members and leaders of the union, who will be arraigned next Monday prior to the meeting.

Other important reports packed with information that every driver should have will be delivered by V. R. Dunne and Farrell Dobbs.

Drivers, plan without fail to attend your membership meeting Monday night. Hear the latest developments on our successful fight to maintain our union against the machinations of Dictator Dan Tobin and his hoodlums and political cronies.

Blair's AFL Bias Is Hit by 544-CIO

Regional CIO Director Frank Barnhart Joins Local 544-CIO Executive Board in Blast Against Blair—Stassen's Labor Conciliator Seizes Upon Flimsy Technicality to Deny 544-CIO Petition for Democratic Election Among Furniture Drivers—Union Will Continue to Press Its Demand for Elections

State Labor Conciliator Alfred Blair last Saturday ruled against Local 544-CIO's petition for a collective bargaining election in the Minneapolis retail furniture stores, and thus openly joined Tobin and his henchmen in seeking to deny the Minneapolis furniture drivers a democratic solution of the dispute between Local 544-CIO and Tobin.

Blair seized upon the flimsiest of reasons—that 544's strike notice was "illegal" because the union had switched from the AFL to the CIO—to deny the 544-CIO petition. At no time did Blair inform Local 544 that its switch to the CIO invalidated the strike notices sent out by the union June 1st, before the membership voted to leave the AFL and join the CIO. Yet he pointed to this as his reason for refusing the union's request for a secret election whereby the workers themselves can choose their collective bargaining agent.

The executive board of Local 544-CIO, in a joint statement with Frank Barnhart, regional director of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, promptly answered Blair's unjust ruling, in a press statement issued August 3rd.

Following is the text of the union statement: "The action of the State Labor Conciliator, Alfred P. Blair, in ruling against the petition of Local 544-CIO for a collective bargaining election in the Minneapolis retail furniture stores is a gross miscarriage of justice.

"Contrary to press accounts, it is not true that the furniture employees struck without first serving the necessary strike notice. Such notice was filed and accepted by the Conciliator on or about June 1st. Since the strike did not begin until 17 days had elapsed, all the objectives sought by the 'cooling off period' requirement of the State Labor Act were fully served. Yet Mr. Blair seized upon the flimsy pretext that the em-

ployees had changed their affiliation from the AFL to the CIO as the basis of his ruling that they were guilty of what he terms 'unfair labor practice.'

"Moreover, overwhelming evidence was produced in the hearings proving the AFL, between June 20 and July 10, by force and threats intimidated many furniture employees into signing AFL authorizations. Upon this record, why has not Mr. Blair, in accordance with his broad investigative powers, also disqualified the AFL from being the bargaining agent? Impartial enforcement of the law would compel disqualification of the AFL if the CIO is to be disqualified. Such a decision by the State Conciliator is an open invitation to the AFL to continue its terrorist tactics against the employees of the industry.

"Local 544-CIO, with the full support of the United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, will continue to vigorously press its demand for democratic elections by secret ballot to determine the bargaining agent for the employees in the furniture stores and all other sections of the motor transport industry.

"We shall use every available channel in our vigorous efforts to defend the legal rights of the employees against Mr. Blair's obvious bias toward the AFL and the unfair decision which he has rendered because of this partisan-ship."

Stassen Man's Ruling Rejecting 544-CIO Petition for Election in Furniture Industry Is Taken to District Court for Review—Local 544-CIO Demands of Blair That He Exercise Even-Handed Justice by Denying all Tobin Petitions on Grounds of Illegal and Unfair Labor Practices by Tobin Hoodlums—Motions Put Blair on Hot Seat—Local 544-CIO Planning New Moves to Expose Star Chamber Proceedings, Win Democratic Right of Elections, Speed Contract Negotiations

In a move calculated to break out of the Star Chamber proceedings engineered by Alfred P. Blair and the daily press in the labor board hearings on Local 544-CIO's petitions for industry-wide elections, the union on Monday went into District Court and obtained a writ of certiorari from Judge Mathias Baldwin. The writ, returnable September 15th, calls for a review of Blair's brazen decision of last Saturday denying Local 544-CIO's petition for an election in the local furniture industry.

The Blair decision Saturday was a move calculated to aid the AFL and the employers against the Minneapolis drivers, and to throw consternation into the ranks of the union. Frank Barnhart, regional U.C.W.O. director, immediately joined Local 544-CIO's executive board in a public statement condemning Blair for his unjust ruling based on the flimsiest technicality. Blair's rank decision will be called into question in the District Court review September 15th.

By Blair's own "logic," if he is to disqualify one union for an alleged unfair labor practice, he must also disqualify the other party, Tobin's union, for the many concrete unfair labor practices it has engaged in since June 9th when the drivers left the AFL and joined the CIO.

Let Blair Apply His "Logic" Attorneys for Local 544-CIO were not slow to drive home this point with Blair. Monday Gilbert Carlson and William K. Thomas, union attorneys, went before Blair and submitted a motion that he disqualify the AFL in the wholesale grocery houses because of the unfair labor practices of Tobin's goons. CIO attorneys pointed to the evidence whereby the Tobin men used threats and intimidation to compel drivers and warehousemen to pay dues and sign AFL pledge cards.

A second motion was also filed with Blair by 544-CIO, demanding of Stassen's conciliator that he dismiss the petition of the AFL for citywide certification, on the grounds that Tobin's forces have been guilty of unfair labor practices, and on the further grounds that there has never been citywide labor relations covering the Minneapolis motor transport drivers, the men in each industry being covered by a separate contract.

Again on Tuesday, attorneys for Local 544-CIO moved, at the cement block hearing held in the Nicollet hotel, that Blair disqualify the AFL from any further participation in the cement block hearing and that the AFL has no place on the ballot because of its unfair labor practices. Blair took all motions under advisement.

No doubt Blair and his advisers thought it a clever move last Saturday to rule against the 544-CIO petition for elections in the furniture industry, on the basis of a legal technicality scored as an "unfair labor practice." The technicality seized upon was that the strike notice mailed Blair and the furniture bosses on June 1st by Local 544 was "illegal" because of the switch from the AFL to the CIO.

Actually, through this unjust ruling, Blair has permitted 544-CIO to turn the tables on him and the AFL by demanding that he now disqualify and dismiss all

AFL petitions demanding certification, on the same grounds he used unjustly upon Local 544-CIO—the grounds of unfair labor practice.

Stassen Law Up For Judgment Blair is now placed in the position before the public where he must either apply the Stassen Slave Labor Law impartially to both sides—or admit that both the law and himself are instruments whereby the bosses and Governor Stassen can intervene in the labor movement to exercise gross bias against the stronger and more militant union in favor of the weaker and boss-minded union.

Enough proof of illegal and unfair labor practices on the part of Tobin's hoodlums has been presented in the hearings to date to disqualify them from the slightest consideration in the hearings. The whole labor movement knows this, despite the efforts of the daily press to boycott the majority of testimony to this effect.

As an example, in the 544-CIO memorandum accompanying its motion to disqualify the AFL in the wholesale grocery proceedings, 544-CIO cites the provision of the Stassen law making it an unlawful labor practice to "unlawfully threaten any person while in pursuit of lawful employment."

The union then points to the transcript of the testimony of Harold Fisher, employee of Western Grocer, testimony never disproved by the Tobin men.

Part of that testimony, taken from the official transcript, is hereby reproduced. The questioner is Mr. Thomas. The answers are those of Brother Fisher: "Q: Did anyone do anything in your presence before you actually signed (with the AFL)?"

"A: Well, I'd say there was one thing that really scared me there. This Charlie Hathaway and I were going to work in front of our place. We parked the car across the street. There was a National Tea truck there. We got out of the car, and one of the men come over to our car and wanted to know if we were ready to sign up with the AFL. We told him 'yes' and as we were going across the street in front of the building, across from 500 (Continued on page 4)

CIO Scores 2-1 Over AFL in NLRB Elections

CIO unions won 50.3 per cent of the NLRB elections as against 25.8 per cent for the AFL and 6.5 per cent for independent unions during the three-month period ending June 30th.

The CIO led with 147,230 votes as against the AFL's 75,478.

The CIO unions won more than half of the elections in such basic industries as auto, building and construction, electrical equipment, glass, leather, meat packing and rubber.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town - - - Let's KEEP IT That Way

Strutwear Lay-Off Highlights Growing Industrial Dislocation in United States

175,000 Hosiery Workers in Nation Face Loss of Jobs—Jobs of 215,000 Auto Workers Threatened by Pending 50% Cut in Auto Production—Twenty-four Plants in Illinois Face Shut-Down—Gas Station Attendants, Refrigerator Workers, Rubber Workers Threatened—Impact of Second World War on American Economy Being Felt—Many Shocks Due—Crisis Confronts Labor Movement with New Problems—Shows Inability of Government, Industry to Plan

The notice received last Friday by about six hundred workers at the Minneapolis Strutwear hosiery plant that they face loss of their jobs within ten days brings home with startling suddenness and tragedy the impact of World War II on the economy of the United States. The order of the OPM freezing the processing of raw silk in the United States, besides affecting at least six hundred Minneapolis workers, will bring unemployment to 175,000 more throughout the nation.

The nation's hosiery workers are not the first, nor will they be the last, of the millions of men and women to feel the economic effects of the diplomacy and warring of American and world imperialism. The United States is not yet even a participant in the second world slaughter, and already the effects of the war are dealing shock after shock to the economic and social structure of this nation.

In industry after industry—hosiery, auto, steel, rubber, consumers' goods—millions of workers will shortly be let out of their jobs for the same reasons given the Strutwear workers.

Hosiery Union Protests

The silk shortage will fall with particular force on the large silk centers of the East. In Philadelphia, where the jobs of 12,000 hosiery workers are threatened, the president of Branch 1 of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers said last week: "I cannot understand why the du Pont nylon plant cannot be completed in time to take up some of the slack left when the remaining silk supply is absorbed. This silk shortage has been threatening for several years and our manufacturers have been experimenting with all types of substitute fabrics. . . . It's only a question of getting enough of the synthetic materials, and it's up to the government to see that this is done."

The executive board of Minneapolis Branch 38 of the Hosiery Workers Union wired Roosevelt and the OPM last week, that "It is the duty of the government to protect those affected by its action by using its full powers to step up production of nylon, rayon and other replacement yarns. It is also the duty of the government to provide federal unemployment benefits for workers affected until they are re-employed in other industries."

Auto Is Next

Even more catastrophic than the impact of the war on the hosiery industry is the threatened 50 per cent curtailment in the nation's auto industry. The most pressing problem to come before the United Auto Workers Union, now meeting in annual convention in Buffalo, is that of the pending cut in auto production.

Already over 3,200 General Motors workers in Buffalo have been laid off recently, not to be recalled until 1942, according to the current issue of the United Automobile Worker.

Should the plan to halve auto production, put forward by OPM administrator Leon Henderson, be carried out, the UAW estimates that about 215,000 workers directly engaged in the manufacture of automobiles, bodies and parts would be laid off.

Reliable estimates indicate that in Michigan alone about 120,000 auto workers will be unemployed by the first of the year. This estimate assumes a 50 per cent cut in auto production and makes allowance for employment on all defense work now contracted for. No allowance is made in these figures for the thousands indirectly dependent on the auto industry for their employment or financial security in Michigan.

"The situation in General Motors illustrates the problem. In GM, as of June 1941 about 250,000 workers were employed. About 34,000 of these held jobs on defense work for GM at this time.

"A 50 per cent cut will mean a reduction of GM employment from 250,000 to about 156,000 by December. About 94,000 GM workers will lose their jobs. How large a portion will be re-employed, on GM's defense work? At present, with orders amounting to one billion dollars, GM is creating only 5,000 new defense jobs per month. There is no evidence that the corporation has any intention of moving more rapidly on a defense tooling program. THIS WOULD TAKE GM A FULL 18 MONTHS, OR TO THE MIDDLE OF 1943, TO RE-EMPLOY ITS LAIDOFF WORKERS."

Approximately the same situation would hold for Ford, Chrysler,

and other sections of the auto industry.

A resolution will be placed before the Auto Workers convention, demanding that should workers be thrown out of work by a cut in production, that the government make provisions to pay such workers. "THE SAME WAGE THEY WOULD HAVE RECEIVED HAD THEY BEEN PERMITTED TO CONTINUE IN THEIR PRESENT JOBS."

Same Story Repeated

Situations like those developing in hosiery and auto, pregnant with tragedy and misery for millions of American homes, are developing in many industries in all parts of the country.

In Illinois, for instance, a government commission reported last week that 24 firms, employing approximately 3,569 workers, will have to close their doors within the next 90 days unless they receive the needed material and equipment. These companies make such diverse products as road machinery, oil burners, gas stoves, heating apparatus, overalls, pianos, livestock equipment, kitchen utensils, electrical units, telephone equipment, clock and watch parts, outboard motors, railway cars, aluminum alloys and castings, metal plating and lighting.

The pending restrictions on gas and oil stations in the East threatens the jobs of tens of thousands of workers. Should the gas stations remain closed 12 hours daily, as is contemplated, station owners will slice off one complete shift of from one to three men on the average. In the New York metropolitan area alone, this would throw about 5,000 men out of work. If the order takes in the entire Eastern seaboard, from 35,000 to 40,000 filling station attendants will face loss of their jobs.

The order to cut refrigerator production to 150,000 units a month (a decrease of more than 50 per cent) will immediately affect retail stores, salesmen and credit organizations.

Certain crafts and industries which have up to now enjoyed a certain artificial "war-made" prosperity, will soon see jobs taper off and disappear. In this category fall the building trades workers, who have by now practically completed the rush of new buildings required for the army.

New Bottlenecks Appear

A writer in the July 27th issue of the financial section of the New York Times sums up the chaotic condition confronting American industry when he points out that "Within the next sixty days, stringencies not merely in vital raw materials but in all types of raw and semi-manufactured goods will sharply reduce production of consumer goods and at the same time may hamper the acceleration of the defense program. EACH DAY BRINGS DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CREATE A BOTTLENECK."

"The trouble is . . . that new bottlenecks are not confined to the material or production end but are spreading out to cover shipping materials, transportation space in both ships and railroads, electrical power, natural and manufactured gas. Thus, a supplier may have the necessary raw materials for a plant but he may be short on shipping containers, or his shipment may be delayed. The receiver of the materials, if he is a non-defense manufacturer, may be short of oil or gas and not able to turn out the goods."

By now it is becoming clear to millions of people that the swiftness of a war-time economy is creating a very "bumpy" and uneven situation. While certain war industries suddenly confront a complete stoppage due to lack of raw materials, or the diversion of the supply of raw materials to war production. Even huge industries such as auto are not exempt.

At the bottom of this developing dislocation of industry lies the stark fact that Big Business, because of its prime need to seek profits at all costs, is incapable of conceiving and executing plans to utilize to the best advantage

the raw materials, the skilled workers and the machinery available.

Each industrial giant is battling with its competitor for materials, each industry fights with rival industries for preferences.

The fact of the World War underscores the impossibility under capitalism for the great nations to agree to a broad world-wide economic plan. The fact of the present and threatened dislocation of industry in the United States underscores the inability of Big Business to plan for the needs of the American people.

What Is Government's Game?

The N. Y. Times for August 3rd carried an article expressing the bitter criticism leveled by the silk industry against the government for refusing to take the necessary steps to avoid the present silk shortage. The article points out that "Under legislation passed shortly after Hitler's march into Poland, the government was authorized to accumulate stockpiles of strategic materials which are imported. Silk was specifically mentioned among these, but no silk went into the strategic materials stockpile. . . . It was learned yesterday that repeated attempts had been made by silk interests over the last nine months to get a satisfactory answer from government officials as to why silk was not acquired under the stockpile legislation."

The same paper points out that a similar dislocation threatens the rubber industry in this country. "The efforts of the government to build up a reserve of 400,000 tons of this essential material have so far failed. As a consequence, during the last half of this year manufacturers of all rubber products have been told that they must reduce consumption a little more than 25 per cent."

What may be involved in this failure of the government to pile up the necessary silk and rubber stock piles may be but the congenial incapacity of a capitalist government to plan. Or it may be that by creating crises in several large industries, the national administration is seeking to build up public sentiment to back its imperialist war designs in the Far East."

New Union Problems

Whatever the answer, it is certain that the growing dislocations of American industry are going to have a profound effect on millions of workers, and that the dislocations are going to be reflected immediately in the union movement. Should the bulk of the hosiery and auto workers suddenly lose their jobs, for instance, one can understand what new problems this will raise for the union organizations. With some industries facing mass shut-downs, and others ballooning for war production, with hundreds of thousands of workers being shifted from one industry to another, the union movement of America confronts new problems which will require new solutions.

News Guild Whips AFL in Times Vote

The CIO Newspaper Guild of New York has been chosen as the collective bargaining agent for the 587 editorial employees of the New York Times, a counting of the ballots cast in a recent NLRB election revealed last Friday.

The vote was 295 for the Guild and 202 for the "American Newspaper Writers Association," an AFL dual union. Only 38 voted for no union.

A year ago the Newspaper Guild was chosen as the collective bargaining agent for the 720 commercial employees of the Times. As a result of the recent election, the editorial and commercial departments will be combined as one bargaining agent.

Though the AFL through its "Writers association" tried to raid the CIO Newspaper Guild, President Roosevelt did not see fit to issue a statement against this raid.

544-CIO Grievance Committee Meets Tuesday, Friday

Attention of all motor transport and allied workers is called to the fact that the regular meetings of the Grievance and Seniority Committees of Local 544-CIO are being held in the union hall at 1328 Second Street North.

The union Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m.

The union Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m.

If you have grievances or questions on seniority to take up, the place to discuss them is before your union committees.

Ten Reasons Why You Should Vote for Local 544-CIO

1. Local 544-CIO stands for higher wages to meet the rising cost of living. Tobin stands for "sacrifices" on the part of labor, but not on the part of the profiteers.
2. Local 544-CIO furnished the leadership that has raised the wages, shortened the hours and won job security for the drivers and warehousemen of this city.
3. Local 544-CIO stands for honest, democratic and militant unionism. Tobin stands for dictatorship, thuggery and horse-and-buggy craft unionism.
4. Local 544-CIO elects its officers in free and democratic elections by secret ballot. Tobin's receiver appoints officers for the AFL.
5. Local 544-CIO has the backing of the great progressive CIO industrial union movement, the dominant movement in America today.
6. Local 544-CIO has always insisted that the employers live up to the union agreements.
7. Local 544-CIO protects its members on the job, and settles their grievances.
8. Local 544-CIO fights all finks. Tobin imitates them.
9. Local 544-CIO symbolizes the future of American unionism. Tobin and the AFL represent the dead and dying past.
10. Local 544-CIO is the union that Made Minneapolis a Union Town and means to Keep It That Way!

AFL Drivers in Charlotte Ask Aid to Fight Frame-up, Face Expulsion by Tobin

Leaders of the Minneapolis motor transport and allied workers last week received a plea for financial aid from the AFL Drivers Union Local 71 of Charlotte, N. C., nine of whose members are being held on a frame-up for bond of \$45,000.

The frame-up is the outgrowth of a strike called June 7th by Local 71 against the G. & M. Transfer company of Statesville, N. C.

"During the strike," writes Local 71, "one of the G. & M. Transfer trucks was destroyed by fire, and to solve the mystery, the State politicians directed an investigation and arrested some fifteen members of this Local Union, nine of which are being held under a bond of forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000)."

"It is our firm belief that these men are innocent and did not participate in any part of this action, but through the political string, we have been unable to furnish bond to these boys due to the fact that all Bonding Companies have requested that the amount of the bond (\$45,000) be deposited in credit of the Bonding Company, plus \$25 per thousand for the premium. This has been protested against from every legal angle, but the politicians are so well organized that it has been impossible for us to receive any favorable verdicts as far as the courts are concerned."

Tobin Turns Men Down

"On different occasions this condition, which exists throughout the South, has been explained at mass meetings of local unions and also to the General President of the International Union, and we, as Teamsters, appeal to our sister Locals for financial aid in order that we may have the rights and freedom of members of the Teamsters throughout the country."

It is obvious from Local 71's letter that the union asked aid from Tobin and that he rejected their request, in the same callous and cynical way he always turns down members of his own union when they are victimized by labor's enemies.

In the Sioux City Bakery Drivers strike, wherein seven officers of AFL Drivers unions in Sioux City, Des Moines and Omaha were framed and arrested, it is recalled that Tobin bluntly rejected appeals for financial aid and told the Mid-West drivers' movement to take care of the fight themselves. Only thanks to the aid of Local 544 and other unions in Detroit,

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP It That Way.

Let's Not Boast

When it shall be said in any country in the world, "My poor are happy; neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want; the rational world is my friend, because I am a friend of its happiness—when these things can be said, then may that country boast of its constitution and its government."—Thomas Paine.

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Text of Non-Partisan League Statement Backing 544-CIO Against Tobin Indictments

Below is the full text of the release from Labor's Non-Partisan League protesting against the government persecution of those indicted in connection with the withdrawal of Local 544 from the AFL. John L. Lewis is chairman and John T. Jones, director, of the LNPL.

"Washington, July 28—Witch-

hunting tactics of the Justice Department under A. Mitchell Palmer in World War I are being revived here as history repeats itself in World War II.

"The Palmer period in the Justice Department has long been recognized by all Americans with any respect for human freedom as one of the blackest in our Government's history, yet one of the key figures of that time is still functioning in a high Justice Department post. He is J. Edgar Hoover, now chief of the FBI.

"It was Hoover who was behind the recent Administration move to jam wire-tapping legislation through Congress and which was defeated only after the CIO became active against it. In the post-war era, Hoover's bureau stooped to searching private Senatorial mail and even tried to frame a U. S. Senator on trumped-up charges.

"Today, Justice Department activities again are a menace to fundamental liberties and to labor's basic rights. The pattern of activity is the same as in Palmer's day and Hoover has forgotten none of it.

Persecution for Opinions

"Out in Minneapolis a few days ago a large number of CIO union members were indicted for holding allegedly subversive opinions. The indictment went back to 1938 in strained efforts to find some

Face Tobin's Wrath

By circulating its appeal for aid in this labor case, Local 71 now faces expulsion at the hands of Dictator Dan.

Tobin ruthlessly restricts freedom of speech within his international union, and specifically forbids local unions to solicit aid from sister locals without his own prior approval.

Article XIII, Section 2 of Tobin's fantastic Constitution covers this point: "All local unions affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers, soliciting financial aid from sister local unions, must first receive official approval and endorsement from the General Executive Board"—that is, from Tobin.

The penalty for exercising free speech within Tobin's international is receivership or expulsion.

It is to be hoped that all unions receiving Local 71's appeal for funds to fight this frame-up (organized, incidentally, by politicians belonging to the same political party of which Tobin and Roosevelt are leaders) will disregard Tobin's dictates and respond generously to aid their fellow workers. H. M. Houston is secretary-treasurer of Local 71. The union address is 126 Builders Building, Charlotte, N. C.

Indicted Men "O. K." by Us Says Local Negro Paper

Under the heading "Leaders O. K. by Us," the Minneapolis Spokesman, leading Negro weekly newspaper in this area, points out the unionists indicted by the Department of Justice have fought for democracy for the Negro people.

Below the editorial in the August 1, 1941, issue of the Minneapolis Spokesman is reprinted:

"We are not familiar with the merits of the case of the government against the Socialist Workers Party, but we do know that many of its leaders have repeatedly attacked the enemies of the colored people in this area.

"With developments in this case and the all-out labor war between factions occurring so rapidly the general public has not had an opportunity to get at the real basis for the indictments voted by the Federal grand jury.

"The Socialist Workers Party might be proven to be a wolf in sheep's clothing but most of its campaigns on public measures have been open as far as we have seen. Our faith in most political parties is limited. We still have faith in democracy working and are not interested in 'the revolution.'

"We cannot, however, deny that members of the SWP and its leadership or at least many of those named in the indictments have fought anti-Negro programs and racial bigotry wherever they found it. That's enough for us to hope the charges upon which they have

incident on which to base its action. Not what these men did, but what they thought, formed the real crime charged against them.

"In this particular case, the Justice Department did not act against these allegedly subversive persons until three years after the deed complained of and only after they had transferred their membership from the AFL Teamsters Union to the CIO's United Construction Workers Organizing Committee.

"To many observers here, both in and outside the labor movement, this is a clear case of Justice Department interference in a trade union matter. By its action, the Justice Department seeks to discourage teamsters from joining the CIO.

"The incident is regarded generally here as an attempt by the Justice Department to establish a precedent. If it is successful, many informed observers are expecting other indictments of labor figures who do not toe the mark in the way some bureaucrat would prefer that they do.

"If Minneapolis teamsters can be jailed for their opinions, so can anybody. That is why the case is of national importance to civil liberties."

been indicted are proven false and that they will be acquitted."

There are thousands of unorganized people who would appreciate our side of the story. . . . If they KNEW it. Pass your Industrial Organizer along to them.

No one pays any attention to the poor man's wisdom.

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Place Your Federal Housing Loans and Auto Finance with us. The only bank controlled by Labor and business men INDEPENDENT

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Recklessness of Cops Hit by Colored Paper

The berserk activity of St. Louis cops, who fired with sawed-off shotguns in the negro neighborhood, in an effort to capture a speeder, was cited in the last issue of the Minneapolis Spokesman.

A police squad car was a young speeder along Forest Avenue the evening of July 2nd. Cops forced the speeder to curb, and when he sought escape on foot, opened fire with sawed-off shotguns, "with no regard for the persons who might be in vicinity. Three residents were during the bombardment windows were broken, and the yard of the Cornell Home with no regard for the fact that a number of seriously chronic invalids are housed there."

"After the capture of the speeder, he was marched down the street at the point of his hands in air. While he was holding him, according to mercurial witnesses, he was permitted to low hands. One of the arresting cops replied, 'No, you black

A protest meeting against the vicious recklessness of the St. Louis cops was held at the Hooper Library last Thursday evening. It has been commonly known that the cops have an attitude of servility to wealthy white breakers, and an entirely different and vicious attitude towards groes, strikers and the unemployed."

Heavy Hardware Have Good Meeting

A special meeting of the Hardware Section of Local 544 was held last Wednesday evening. The good attendance conclusively that the CIO is the allegiance of the men.

The AFL tried to hold a meeting of the same section that night. One man attended! Among the heavy hardware companies are the Minneapolis Iron Store and Williams Hardware.

A full discussion on the conditions and conditions in the industry today was held. Effect the AFL to collect dues by coercion and intimidation boomeranged here as in other towns. The majority of the are paying their dues to their union, Local 544-CIO.

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP It That

Revive the Spirit of 1934

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IMPROVED GRAIN BELT BEER

A BETTER BEER, MADE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

THE Friendly BEER

544-CIO Grievance Committee Meets Tuesday, Friday

Attention of all motor transport and allied workers is called to the fact that the regular meetings of the Grievance and Seniority Committees of Local 544-CIO are being held in the union hall at 1328 Second Street North.

The union Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m.

The union Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m.

If you have grievances or questions on seniority to take up, the place to discuss them is before your union committees.

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Tobin Slander Against Tibbetts Nailed Down

Dictator Dan Tobin of the AFL Teamsters believes, that Hitler, that if you spread enough lies and slander about your enemies, some of the mud will stick. He teaches his agents to practice the technique.

The men Tobin sent in here, and the local Quislings, have told an awful number of whoppers in their efforts to discredit Local 544-CIO in the minds of the workers. So many of the slanders have been spread in circulation by Tobin and his agents that they can't possibly be ferreted out and answered immediately.

But one of the rottenest slanders against Bob Tibbetts, former official of the AFL Warehouse Union, is that he is a Communist. This is a lie, and is herewith nailed down. For the Ole Ogs have been spreading the lie that when Tibbetts left Local 359, Tobin found out that he was a Communist. For the scoundrels who haven't been honest enough to estimate Tobin's capture of all his agents, we are glad to march forth with excerpts from a letter written by C. Ward Clarke, an air. Warehouse Union for Local 359, to the according company's attorney. The letter, he registers, completely exonerates Tibbetts from the vile slander spread by the Tobin and his Quislings. The letter, incidentally, should not be regarded as casting any suspicion on Mr. Clarke, whose integrity is unquestioned.

Mr. Clarke's letter follows:

"In accordance with your request per our telephone conversation I am herewith enclosing data relative to my audit as of June 30th, in which I found an unaccounted for difference in the cash accounts of Warehouse Employees Union 359.

"Since Mr. Robert Tibbetts was the financial secretary of this union, it was assumed that this difference would be charged against him and according to my audit report this was the position we took.

"I am pleased to report that we have reconciled the bank account of this organization as of July 31st and found today that a deposit was made up on June 30th which included everything in the cash box except \$50.

"This deposit was placed in the safe in the afternoon of June 30th as it was too late to reach the bank, and when I counted what was on hand June 30th I was under the impression that this deposit was in the bank.

"Since the deposit was placed in the bank on the morning of July 1st, it should

have been entered in my audit as cash on hand amounting to \$649.16 in addition to what I showed, and which would completely exonerate Mr. Tibbetts.

"I am very sorry that this error has occurred and I can say that it is the first time in twenty years' experience that I have had to apologize for an error on my part. At any rate, I am very happy that this clears Mr. Tibbetts on the point set forth in my audit."

Knowing the methods of Tobin's men, knowing they haven't the basic decency to retract their slander of Tibbetts, or of any other Local 544-CIO man, we herewith give this letter to our readers.

Erling Nelson, former board member of the AFL Warehouse Union who has come over to the CIO, was hailed into court last week by the AFL and also quickly cleared himself of the slander by Ole Ogg that there was any shortage in Nelson's steward accounts. Nelson is steward at Wheeler-Barnes.

Sometimes it takes time. But every last lie and slander put out by Tobin and his dishonorable Quislings is going to be pushed right down their throats.

Donaldson Men And Women Meet In 544-CIO Hall

An enthusiastic meeting of the Donaldson inside workers, members of the Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO, was held Monday night, August 4th, in the union hall. Men and women of this company have signed application cards in the CIO, and have also signed the petitions requesting an election.

On occasion Tobin's agents have claimed these workers as members. The meeting held at CIO headquarters left no doubt that the Donaldson employees are for the CIO and have only contempt for Tobin and his tactics.

These workers understand that they could not possibly go forward under a Tobinized leadership that would leave the women out of the agreement. They appreciate the soundness of the industrial union policy followed by the CIO, and its policy of taking in all workers, men and women, and winning better conditions for all. They have pledged their solidarity to the CIO and intend to go forward under the banner of Local 544-CIO.

544-CIO Drivers Attend Your Section Meetings

Attention of all Local 544-CIO members is called to the need of attending your union section meetings, in order to hear and discuss the reports, and keep up with developments in the successful fight being waged to defend our union.

Below is a list of the meetings scheduled for the month of August:

- Stewards**
Friday, August 1st; Friday, August 15th
- Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners**
Thursday, August 7th
- Wholesale Grocery**
Friday, August 8th
- Over-the-Road Men**
Sunday, August 10th, 2 p. m.
- General Membership**
Monday, August 11th
- Lumber**
Tuesday, August 12th
- Market; Wholesale Liquor**
Wednesday, August 13th
- Furniture; Coal; Paper and Printing**
Monday, August 18th
- Tent and Awning; Newspaper**
Thursday, August 21st
- Cold Storage and Produce**
Friday, August 22nd
- Spring Water**
Monday, August 25th
- Building Material**
Tuesday, August 26th
- Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug**
Thursday, August 28th
- Ice Drivers**
Monday, August 11th
- Warehousemen**
Tuesday, August 12th
- Warehouse Stewards**
Monday, August 25th
- Seniority Committee**
Each Tuesday, 7 p. m.
- Grievance Committee**
Each Tuesday and Friday, 7 p. m.

Auto Workers Convention Hears of Mammoth Gains

The United Auto Workers of America (CIO) meeting in their annual convention this week in Buffalo, N. Y., have a year filled with many great victories, and several militant strikes, upon which to look back. Judging from the tone of reports which have come out of the convention so far, the coming year promises to be filled with just as many fights, and an equal number of victories.

President R. J. Thomas' annual report to the convention dealt mainly with two things—the growth of the union, and the threat of a 50 per cent cut in auto production which the OPM has requested in order to give defense orders priority in materials and labor.

During the past year the membership of the UAW-CIO has grown to 528,413. The union holds signed contracts with 982 auto and aircraft plants, covering over 700,000 workers. This total of workers covered by contracts represents a gain of 93 per cent over May, 1940.

Year's Accomplishments
The union has won every NLRB election in which it was a participating party. Elections in 81 GMC plants were UAW-CIO victories, and the union has now signed contracts in 80 of these plants, as contrasted to only 60 plants covered last year.

Twenty-seven per cent of all contracts now include the union shop. And 58 per cent of these same contracts bring paid vacations to the workers, opposed to only 34 per cent last year.

The average hourly wage of the automobile worker today is \$1.014

as against 94c for the previous year.

Thousands of workers in Chrysler, GMC, Ford, Hudson, Packard, and other plants have received wage increases of from 8 to 10c per hour.

Probably the greatest victory of the entire year was the successful strike and resultant contract with the Ford Motor Company which brought upwards of 100,000 new members into the union, raised the pay of these workers from 10 to 18c (and in some cases as high as 53c) per hour, gave them a closed shop, grievance machinery, seniority, and all of the other benefits of union organization.

Both President Thomas and Secretary Treasurer Addes voiced the union's opposition to the government's plan to curtail auto production by 50 per cent to release materials and power for defense industries. Thomas labeled the plan a crime, and Addes said "it is a crime and an unnecessary one at that."

In his report Thomas told of a plan devised by the CIO-UAW to turn the present auto plants into aircraft plants, and to step up the production of steel. He said that this plan had been presented to government officials and that it had been "brushed aside with kind words."

If the OPM is allowed to force the shutting down of auto production by 50 per cent 250,000 men will be forced into unemployment.

This UAW-CIO convention is the largest in the history of the union. Over 3,000 delegates have registered from every part of the country. Such a convention, composed as it is, of worker-delegates, with a year of victories behind them, with the membership growing until now the UAW-CIO is one of the largest national unions in the country, can and must lay down a program which will insure the workers at home of a plan of action with which to face the coming, turbulent year.

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GR. 3531

Labor Mourns Passing of R. F. Bunnell

His host of friends in labor's ranks mourn the death of Rollin (Bunny) Bunnell, 54, who passed away July 29th at St. Mary's hospital, from a heart ailment. For more than twenty years Bunny Bunnell had been advertising manager of the Minneapolis Labor Review. He was a member of the Office Workers Union. His kindness will always be remembered by all who knew him.

Funeral services were held last Thursday at Swanson's mortuary, with burial at Hillside. Surviving are a wife, Lucretia, daughter, Shirley, and son, Frank.

CIO Defeats Anti-Strike Amendment

Washington, D. C.—Last Tuesday the CIO and Labor's Non-Partisan League successfully campaigned to have the House vote down, 255 to 114, the Connally amendment to the Selective Service Act which would have granted President Roosevelt the strike-breaking powers he sought.

The national administration backed the Connally amendment authorizing the government to seize and operate plants where production was held up or threatened with a stoppage. The vote on the Connally amendment followed by three weeks the defeat of the anti-labor May amendments to the Selective Service Act, also backed by Roosevelt.

The House vote followed an active campaign by the CIO, led off by a letter from CIO President Philip Murray declaring that the amendment means that "profits of management are not to be disturbed but the rights of labor are to be abolished."

The House vote knocking out the amendment was hailed by the CIO as "a gratifying response to the urgings of CIO and NLP that no legislation be adopted to destroy labor's rights under the pretense of aiding national defense."

"The CIO and the League have consistently opposed all attempts to pass measures restricting the right to organize, bargain collectively and strike," the statement said. "The House-Senate conference report would have permitted the use of the Army and Navy to break strikes and could have been used to force compulsory arbitration on labor."

Defeat for Roosevelt, Tobin
Of the 114 votes to retain the union-smashing Connally amendment, 113 were Democrats, members of the political party led by Don Tobin and Roosevelt.

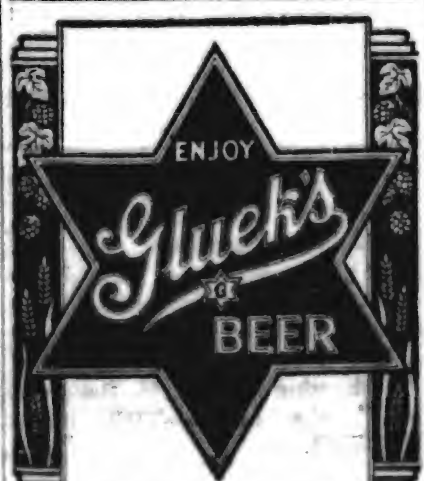
An Associated Press report of the House vote points out that "The action was interpreted as a rebuke to Mr. Roosevelt for his seizure last month of the North American Aviation corporation plant in Inglewood, Calif. Administration leaders have been frank to admit that one of the aims of the measure was to validate the taking over of the plant at bayonet point during a strike."

Drivers Don't Pay Dues To Tobin's Goons

Local 544-CIO advises all drivers, warehousemen and inside workers to continue to refuse to pay dues to Raw Deal Neal's set-up.

Though legally your payment of dues to the AFL will not interfere with your right to vote as you choose in the labor board elections, yet the Tobin attorneys and Neal are attempting to use this as an argument to further confuse and postpone the elections. They point to the dues their hoodlums have been able to collect at the point of club and fist, and argue that this proves the men want their brand of unionism.

You will be acting in your own best interest and that of your union if you refuse to pay all dues to Tobin.



Thoughts While Reading The Minnesota Teamster

NEAL'S NEW PRESIDENT

Yep, Raw Deal's done it again. Not one month has passed, and Neal's already held a new "election" in his ghost Local 544-AFL. With no explanation to the Minneapolis drivers—who really don't care much what Neal does—we read in the August 1st copy of Casey's rag that Raw Deal's latest appointee is "President James W. Shirley of Local 544 AFL."

A month ago Neal told the Minneapolis motor transport drivers their new president was a fellow going by the name of "Leonard S. Brady."

What has happened in the meantime? Has Neal found out that the man calling himself "Brady" is too vulnerable to attack?

Or, in view of the Hill City shooting by Neal's men, is he preparing to "elect" a whole new board?

Or did Neal just get tired of seeing the same old faces around, and whimsically decide to hold a new "election?"

Three dollars in cash will be paid the reader coming closest to guessing who will be president of Neal's Local 544-AFL on September 1st. All contributions must be in by August 25th. Everyone but Neal is eligible to enter this contest.

Casey hollers that "The AFL has the membership and the AFL will demonstrate it at the proper time."

When, Casey, when? Every time we try to pin you down to a fair and square election, you and your lawyers squirm and twist to avoid the test.

For a big-mouthed man who makes large claims, you seem singularly timid about laying it on the line in a democratic election. A fellow would almost believe

that you are talking through your hat and that you fear nothing so much as the real election test.

Occasionally, Dictator Tobin permits Gillespie to write an uplifting editorial or two in Tobin's personal organ, the official Teamsters' magazine.

In the August issue, Gillespie, in warning the drivers about "raids," claims that "No organization in the labor movement has done more for its members than has been done by our International."

If Gillespie wanted to be truthful, he would write: "No International has done less for its membership than our outfit. We gag them, take their dues, but deny them strike benefits and stab them in the back when they are in trouble. And yet the membership permits us to over-pay ourselves by tens of thousands of dollars yearly."

In return for the \$30,000 and more Tobin receives from the Teamsters, he orders them to make greater "sacrifices" and helps sell them down the red river of boss war.

For weeks Casey's goons have worked to build up a meeting of the 544 members on the market. Last Monday night the meeting was to be held. It was a complete flop. Not enough people showed up to even hold the meeting. This is extremely important evidence that, with all their boasting, Tobin's "organizers" have NO support among the Minneapolis drivers. They put in a great deal of work to build up this meeting, and even announced a strike vote would be taken at the meeting. With all their big promises, they couldn't attract even a handful to the meeting.

Civil Rights Defense Group Set Up to Defend Workers Indicted for "Conspiracy"

A Civil Rights Defense Committee was organized last week, with headquarters in New York City, on behalf of the 29 defendants in the federal prosecution instigated by Tobin and Roosevelt against active members and leaders of Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party.

George E. Novack, secretary-treasurer of the Committee, stated:

CIO Whips AFL in Vote At Harvester

Chicago, Ill.—The AFL effort to raid the CIO Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee in its efforts to organize the International Harvester company was smashed back by the workers when they voted CIO in an NLRB runoff election July 30th. The vote was: CIO, 2,806; AFL, 2,564.

Workers at the McCormick plant staged an uproarious pow-wow to celebrate their victory over the company-dominated AFL flunk set-up.

During the Harvester strike several months ago hundreds of AFL members scabbed, with the protection of 1,400 Chicago police.

The key position of the McCormick plant placed the CIO Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee in a commanding position in International Harvester, with bargaining rights now won for more than 17,000 of the company's workers.

The McCormick victory again underscores the fact that the workers of America, in any fair and democratic election, in the majority choose the CIO over the horse-and-buggy boss-minded AFL.

President Roosevelt, who came to the aid of Dictator Dan Tobin by describing the CIO charter granted the Minneapolis drivers as a "raid," never lifted a finger when the AFL fakers worked hand in hand with the International Harvester company to try to raid and disrupt the CIO's campaign there.

8,175,000 Jobless In May, CIO Says
According to estimates in the CIO Economic Outlook, unemployment fell in May to 8,175,000, a drop of 889,000 from the revised March figure of 9,064,000. Of this increase in jobs, 203,000 represents an increase in the military forces, 451,000 increased non-agricultural employment, and about 285,000 on the farms.

"The Civil Rights Defense Committee proposes to wage an energetic fight on behalf of the members of the Socialist Workers Party and the leaders of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO, who have been indicted in Minnesota. We condemn the action of the Federal Government in conducting such an unjust persecution against members of a working class party for their opinions, or trade unionists because of their activities in the labor movement."

"We intend to rally public opinion in support of the defendants and to acquaint the American people with the serious threat to civil liberties and to organized labor involved in this important case. We believe that this assault upon labor's democratic rights can be and will be beaten back by an aroused public opinion."

The National Office of the Civil Rights Defense Committee is located at 160 Fifth Avenue, New York City. A full-page advertisement, outlining the facts behind the federal persecution and setting forth the statements on this case made by the CIO, the American Civil Liberties Union and various liberal publications, is carried on the back cover of the August 2nd issue of the Nation magazine.

When the Chinaman was asked for another contribution to the church fund he asked in amazement, "Wassa mally Jesus—allas bloke?"

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town—Let's KEEP IT That Way.

Revive the Spirit of 1934!

gining of the defense program, the Secretary of Labor has admitted the existence of an ample supply of labor, the CIO points out. The Bureau of Labor Statistics admits that "There will be a reserve of unused labor power available in July, 1942. There will still be unemployment, especially among unskilled and older workers, and we shall hardly have begun to draw upon the huge reserve of unemployed workers on farms and women in the labor market."

AFL Driver in East Tells of Tobinism

"Knowing of your trouble with the AFL, I can sympathize with you," writes a member of Private Chauffeurs Union Local 800 of New York City, an affiliate of Teamsters Council No. 16 of Tobin's organization.

"Our local is three years old. During this time we have tried to get the sanction of Joint Council 16 to organize the rental drivers of this city. Did we get their OK? Certainly not. We were told another local has jurisdiction over this field—yet no one else is interested or will make any attempt to organize the rental drivers."

"For months we have been trying to get permission of Joint Council 16 to organize drivers of new cars to docks for shipment. These men have been doing this work for years and have never been approached by any representative of any local union. We were told we have jurisdiction over this field; but other than that we were given the run-around."

"We were told by these drivers that we could never organize them because a certain Dr. Johnson of General Motors had too much influence in certain Teamsters locals. Such proved to be the case for we can get no cooperation from Joint Council 16."

"It is a queer state of affairs when certain officials of the Brotherhood of Teamsters deliberately obstruct our efforts to organize a group of men simply because a man of influence employed by a large and wealthy organization does not want these drivers to belong to a union."

Post Office in Charleston Has Black List

Charleston, S. C.—A startling example of Gestapo tactics in the U. S. Post Office was seen here in a time-clock notice posted in local postoffices by J. G. Thomas, superintendent of mails, which read in part:

"All employees at this office, Station A, and the Navy Yard Branch are requested to keep a very careful watch on the following newspapers, and to furnish me with the names and complete addresses of all persons receiving copies of any of the papers.

"THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD THE ADDRESSEES BE ADVISED THAT THIS LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS HAS BEEN RECORDED. AS SOON AS THE INFORMATION IS OBTAINED, IT SHOULD BE SENT TO ME UNDER COVER."

The papers listed include labor, radical and liberal papers. President Roosevelt is still hot and bothered about establishing the "four freedoms" throughout the world. The best place to fight for democracy, though, is right here at home.

ORGANIZER WANT ADS

(If you are a subscriber, your ad will be published here free of charge. Mail or phone the Northwest Organizer, 1328 Second Street North.

PERMANENT WAVING, done at your home. \$2.50 and up. AT. 5860.

WANTED TO RENT with option to buy—5 or 6 room house, good location. CO. 1351.

Sale Miscellaneous

1940 CORONADO old burner, 2 drums, \$35 cash. Walter Nash, 2531 7th St. N. E., GR. 2524.

PIANO and bench, \$15. 1428 6th St. N., CH. 2101.

PLAYER PIANO, very good condition, \$15. Also rug room in good condition, \$10. Orchard 9234-W.

Important

To Delinquent 544 Members and to The Unorganized

Having completed the move from the AFL into the CIO, the Minneapolis Local 544, wishes to start off with a clean slate.

The union executive board therefore has moved to accept for reinstatement into Local 544, CIO, all members who have become delinquent in dues under the old set-up. Reinstatement can be effected by the payment of the current month's dues of \$2.00.

Drivers and allied workers not hitherto members of Local 544 may also join Local 544, CIO, simply by paying the current month's dues of \$2.00.

Until further notice this decision will remain in effect.

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Industrial Organizer

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Six months in advance .85
Single copies (10 copy minimum) .03 1/2

"Application for entry as second-class matter is pending"

Business Manager DANIEL BURKE Editor MILES B. DUNNE

How the Stassen Slave Law "Promotes" Industrial Peace

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE AVOIDANCE AND SETTLEMENT OF LABOR DISPUTES AND THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE . . ."

Those are the words that preface the text of the vile Stassen Slave Labor Law, the boss-inspired law that for over two years has been a millstone around the necks of organized labor in this city and state.

"A pretty good law." That is how George K. Belden, head of the Associated Industries, described the Stassen Slave Law at a businessmen's banquet held at the Radisson hotel on May 19, 1939, where the labor-haters celebrated passage of the law.

"This law will safeguard the rights of the farmer, the worker, the public and every citizen." That is what Governor Stassen pledged in the spring of 1939, when the law was being debated.

"They lie" will say every intelligent worker, who has watched the operations of the law during the past two years. "THEY LIE PRODIGIOUSLY" will say every Minneapolis motor transport and allied worker who has watched the Stassen Slave Law operate in the present dispute between Local 544-CIO and Tobin's agents.

Seven long weeks ago, on June 20th, Local 544-CIO through its attorneys filed petitions with the State Labor Conciliator for industry-wide elections whereby the workers themselves can democratically decide their choice of bargaining agent.

Over five weeks ago, on June 30th, Blair finally opened the series of hearings on Local 544-CIO election petitions.

Weeks have passed. Dozens of hearings have been held. Scores of rank-and-file workers have come forward to testify, from all sections of the industry, to the illegal violence and intimidation resorted to by Tobin's imported hoodlums in their desperate efforts to drag the Minneapolis workers back into Tobin's antiquated craft union organization. Hundreds of CIO pledge cards have been presented, many are the petitions brought forward, signed by the workers involved, requesting the state labor conciliator to order industry-wide elections and thus aid in effecting a democratic solution to this struggle.

Stassen's Law Exposed

And has the Stassen Slave Labor Law, and its administrator, Alfred P. Blair, brought this dispute appreciably nearer a settlement? NO!

The Stassen Slave Labor Law is not a law looking toward the settlement of labor disputes and the promotion of industrial peace.

When it is to the interests of the employers and Governor Stassen, the Stassen Slave Law is an instrument to prolong labor disputes, and a shield behind which imported hoodlums can unleash their vicious will upon the workers.

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE STASSEN SLAVE LABOR LAW HAS PROVED ITSELF TO BE IN THE MINNEAPOLIS TRANSPORT DRIVERS SITUATION!

All the sharpest criticisms leveled at the Stassen Slave Labor Law by the Minnesota labor movement have been upheld and justified by the scandalous way in which Blair—acting for the bosses, Stassen and Tobin—has manipulated the law to deny the transport drivers and allied workers their democratic right to industry-wide elections.

Local 544-CIO never demanded that it be arbitrarily designated as the collective bargaining agent for the drivers, warehousemen and inside workers—though the union has every right to ask such designation. Truly mountainous evidence has been presented in support of Local 544-CIO's request.

All that Local 544-CIO has requested under the law was this democratic right to elections.

And what has Blair—guided by Stassen, the bosses and Tobin's agents—done? For over five weeks he has hemmed and hawed, deferred and delayed, postponed and adjourned, dallied and prolonged; temporized and spun out the hearings.

The boss newspapers have obligingly boycotted the Blair hearings and kept mum on most of the testimony as to the bestial methods used by Tobin's thugs to intimidate the workers and seek to drive them back into Tobin's unions.

In such Star Chamber fashion, Blair has stolidly proceeded to use the Stassen Slave Labor Law to deny justice and democracy to the Minneapolis drivers.

Blair's ruling last Saturday, denying the 544-CIO petition for an election in the furniture industry, is a sorry mockery indeed. He seizes upon the flimsiest excuse to come to the aid of Tobin and deny Local 544's petition—the excuse that the strike notice voted by the furniture men June 1st and sent out by their secretary-treasurer, Kelly Postal, was "invalid" on June 18th, though the very same men and the very same officer were involved.

Yet, for days and weeks Tobin's gangsters, with gun and club in hand, have been roaming the streets and docks of Minneapolis, beating up workers, threatening them, stopping trucks, forcing workers off the job.

But has Blair ruled that the AFL is guilty of unfair labor practices, and that Tobin's organization should be disqualified and its petitions for certification denied? Not yet he hasn't. And if Blair can get away with it, he won't.

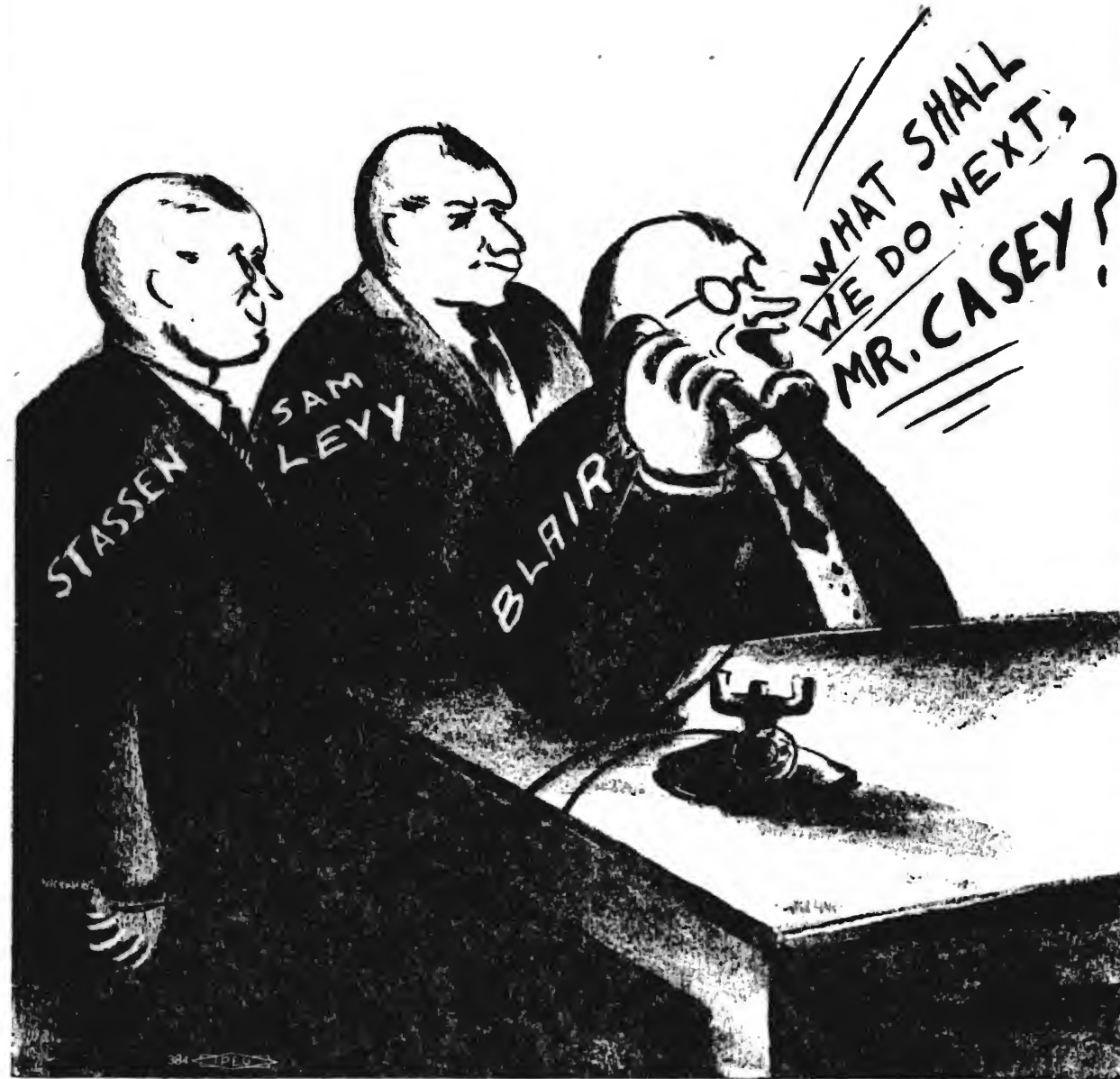
That isn't Blair's game—nor Stassen's, nor Tobin's, nor the bosses'. Their game is to prolong the hearings indefinitely, to deny as long as possible the petitions of the drivers demanding their democratic rights to an election. Their game is to postpone indefinitely a settlement to this dispute, and thus prevent the Minneapolis drivers and warehousemen from being in a position to sign new contracts giving them the protection they need, the higher wages they require to help catch up to the skyrocketing cost of living.

Is Blair violating the Stassen Slave Labor Law when he carries out this shameful stall? Hell, no, he's applying the Stassen Law. That's what the Stassen Law is for—to deny workers their democratic rights, to aid the employers, to favor the boss-minded against the militant union, to prevent workers from signing union agreements.

Sure, George K. Belden of the Associated Industries thinks it's "a pretty good law." It is, for him and his kind. But it's a treacherous and atrocious law from the point of

Behind the Scenes

Edwin



view of those who toil for a living. The experiences of the Minneapolis drivers in the Blair hearings again proves this.

How Tobin Blocks New Contracts

If Dictator Dan Tobin cared one-tenth as much about the welfare of the Minneapolis motor transport workers as he does about his own privileges and power, he would long since have sent word to the agents he ordered into this city, to cease obstructing the democratic solution to this struggle through industry-wide elections.

Every day that Tobin's agents, acting on instructions from Indianapolis, continue to obstruct the elections, they are aiding the Minneapolis bosses and doing a dis-service to the motor transport and allied workers of this city.

By opposing democratic elections, and thus postponing the only solution to this dispute, Tobin's agents play directly into the hands of the bosses and permit them to excuse themselves from negotiations by claiming they don't know which union represents the men.

Actually, the bosses know very well that Local 544-CIO retains the allegiance of the overwhelming majority of Minneapolis drivers. But Tobin's tactics here—aided and abetted by the Stassen Slave Labor Law and Blair—permit the bosses to get away with their plea that they are in doubt as to the proper collective bargaining agent.

In the meantime, what happens?

In the meantime, prices continue to skyrocket. In the meantime, the drivers' wages continue to shrink by comparison. Every day of delay in negotiating new contracts works a hardship upon the driver and his family. As OPM Administrator Leon Henderson admitted Tuesday in Washington, "the nation faces the strongest and most pronounced increase in the cost of living—even if the administration's price control bill becomes law immediately." Twenty-eight of the most important basic commodities have already risen fifty per cent in price, Henderson testified, and are heading toward the 1919 peaks.

Throughout this dispute, Local 544-CIO has displayed its concern for the democratic wishes of the membership, and has pushed with all lawful means at its disposal for the most rapid possible solution of the dispute forced upon the union by Tobin.

Throughout this dispute, Tobin has shown a brutal disregard for the democratic wishes of the Minneapolis drivers, and has done everything possible, legally and illegally, to delay a solution to this dispute and to thus aid the bosses by preventing the men from negotiating new union contracts.

Every Day of Delay Harms Workers

Tobin is taking on his head a terrible responsibility by obstructing the elections and thus preventing negotiations and wage increases. Every day of delay is worth tens of thousands of dollars to the Minneapolis employers. Every day of delay represents tens of thousands of dollars out of the paychecks of the Minneapolis drivers.

Tobin's game here is the bosses' game. The drivers themselves can block that game by rallying demonstratively behind Local 544-CIO's program aimed at forcing Blair to grant the union's petitions for elections.

Tobin's agents here have been loud enough in their claims to represent the men. Very well, let them show enough faith in their claims to "lay it on the line" with Local 544-CIO in a fair-and-square election. The sooner the elections are held, the sooner the collective bargaining agent will be established, the sooner negotiations can start, the sooner wage increases can be won for the men.

If Tobin card a snap of the fingers about the interests of the Minneapolis drivers, he would call off his hoodlums and agree to the elections. His failure to do so can only be interpreted as continuing to furnish left-handed support to the bosses and as continuing to act against the interests of the drivers.

In New York City, a relief investigator, making his regular round of checkup calls during a hot spell, was shocked beyond measure when one of his clients, a buswoman, came to the door in her underwear.

As soon as he caught his breath, he gave her a lecture on the fundamentals of deportment.

"If you want to walk around half-naked in your apartment, that's your business," he said, "but you ought to put on a dressing gown when you come to the door."

The lady shrugged tolerantly. "A dressing gown's in the budget?" she asked.—THE NEW YORKER.

On the National Picket Line

(Continued from page 1)

earn you a place on Mr. Thomas' black list are: The Pilot, organ of the National Maritime Union; The Southern News-Almanac, a liberal paper published in Birmingham, Ala.; and the Daily Worker."

The press isn't the only thing which is receiving the personal attention of the federal government. Recently 100 workers picketed the home of Mayor La Guardia of New York City in protest to the 15,000 persons who had just been cut off WPA. The pickets represented the WPA Teachers Union, the United Artists Union and the Workers Alliance. Twice the Mayor's police assaulted the picket line with clubs, arresting seven the first time, and 20 the second, after the line had reformed.

These arrested workers were taken to the Harlem police station to await their hearings. When they got there they were herded into a room where a large number of FBI agents were waiting for them. Questions were hurled at them as to their citizenship, their union membership, and their status in the draft. After several hours of this terror the workers were turned back to the local police court.

Charges that "open terror and Gestapo methods are being used against federal employees" was made in a letter addressed to all CIO affiliates by Miss Eleanor Nelson, secretary treasurer of the United Federal Workers CIO. Most notable of these methods was used by Secretary Perkins in the dismissal of Helen Miller, a local UFW union official. Miss Nelson also cites several examples of CIO navy yard workers who have been "arrested" on the job by sailors or marines and led out of the yards under escort, in full view of their fellow workers.

Miss Nelson declared that FBI agents are conducting full investigations into the private lives of federal employees, calling them into locked rooms where hours of inquisition await them, shooting questions at them about their union affiliation, their reading, their friends. Union representatives are barred from these "hearings."

Open hearings on the case of Helen Miller have been consistently refused by Secretary Perkins who says "THERE CAN BE NO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE." Miss Miller, who worked in the labor department for seven years, and who has won many promotions, was dismissed suddenly for being "subversive." When the union pressed the Secretary for an open hearing on the case she refused and commissioned one man out of her own department to hold a "hearing."

Captain Atkins, in charge of labor relations for the Navy Department, told a UFWU representative who went to him to protest that "frequently subversive activity is indistinguishable from union activity." The UFWU statement declared that "mass suspensions and dismissals are taking place in Gestapo fashion, with armed guards or Marines with fixed bayonets going through the yards and arsenals, tapping employees on the shoulder, marching them out through the most public passageways so that all employees may see, stripping them of their badges and dismissing them with no reason given for the discharge."

The UFWU points out that such dismissals "with prejudice" amounts to blacklisting the workers from further employment for either the government or private contractors. The statement quotes from CIO President Murray's recent warning that "the national hysteria which has prevailed for some time and in the face of which the future existence and well being of labor unions and millions of their members are being gravely threatened." The

Emil Hansen at Local 544-CIO headquarters, 1328 Second Street North, Minneapolis.

An Evening at 257 Plymouth

"Gosh but it's lonely here." The place was the front office at 257 Plymouth avenue. time was 9 p. m., on a recent evening when Local 544-AFL had three section meetings. The speaker was Raw Deal Neal.

He sat alone in the front office. No one else was in the building. No one but Tobin's organizers had showed up for the meetings. The organizers had long since left to wet their whistles at a downtown bar. Neal sat nervously at his desk. The only light came from neon TJC sign outside the building.

Neal stared at the shadow on the opposite wall. His fingers a tattoo on the desk.

Suddenly he heard an eerie chuckle. Startled, he jumped feet, crossed to the door and looked up the hall towards the cooler. No one was in sight.

Cursing his nerves, Raw Deal walked back and seated himself at his desk. His fingers drummed more swiftly on the desk. His will, he pulled out a piece of paper. He wrote down the name of Leonard Brady opposite the word "President" and inserted name of James Shirley.

That was a rotten bit of luck, his naming a man like him as union president. How would he explain it to the members? Would there be any membership to explain it to?

Again Raw Deal heard mocking laughter. This time it came to come from a group of several people, from the main floor the hall which but a few months ago used to be packed nightly spirited Local 544 sectional meetings. Neal jumped up, ran out the hall and flung open the meeting hall door. He peered into the dimly lit room, but saw only the chairs.

This time he walked more slowly back to the office. He himself at the desk and picked up the list of 544-AFL officers, tapped the point of his pencil after the name of George O'Brien. Another bad break, that Hill City shooting scrape that his boys got into.

He flung the pencil on the desk and leaned back in the chair. He listened intently for a moment. Not a sound in the whole building. "This place is giving me the creeps," he murmured, half aloud. He grabbed the phone and called the hotel where Holy Casey was staying. He could hear the room clerk ringing Casey's room.

Suddenly a torrent of laughter seemed to fill his ears. Chubby belly-laughs, roaring mirth appeared to come from every hall in the building, from the sidewalk in front of the building, from the office in which he sat, the office where used to gather the officers and staff of the Minneapolis General Drivers Union Local 544 that organization had joined the CIO. Neal's fat face turned white. His eyes rolled upward. Hatless he rushed from the building, a crescendo of mocking laughter followed him as he ran towards the city street. The laughter, instead of diminishing, grew louder and louder. Panting, Raw Deal stopped at the corner. He looked towards the Local 544-CIO headquarters, a block away. The very building itself danced with laughter.

Blair's Biased Ruling Is Appealed to District Court

(Continued from page 1)

North Third street, one gentleman called us over to his car.

"Q: One what gentleman?"

"A: One of the AFL men, and this gentleman reached into his glove compartment and pulled out a gun, which was a German Luger. I've seen them before. He released the bottom of the gun and put in a fresh clip of bullets and put that in his pocket."

"Q: Where did he walk?"

"A: He walked with us and mingled with the rest of the boys."

"Q: Did you see any other weapons?"

"A: I saw baseball bats."

"Q: How many did you see?"

"A: I saw one guy with an armful getting out of his car."

union's statement also urges all CIO affiliates to send their protests to these Gestapo actions of the federal government to the president himself, to the Labor, War, Navy Departments and the Civil Service department.

Protests might help—but we've got our doubts. The federal government has embarked on a program of pushing the American workers into the war, whether or not they want to go. The propaganda program which, according to the best authorities, worked splendidly in the last war, has bogged down. Especially in the Middle West, the spirit for war is entirely lacking. Even in the East, where hundreds of thousands of workers are treated to such displays of "preparedness" as trial blackouts, army war games, etc., the spirit for war is very lax, almost entirely lacking.

Said the much henpecked husband: "It's bad enough to have my own troubles in addition to female troubles."

"Q: Who had those?"

"A: The AFL."

It will be impossible for the government to quirk out of such testing as this, and to deny that the AFL is guilty of the most flagrant abuses of the law and thus eligible to any consideration its brazen petitions for certification without elections.

Furniture Actions Stayed

By appealing Blair's decision the furniture industry to the district court, Local 544-CIO blocked this effort to railroad furniture workers against the union. Blair's ruling is prevented from certifying AFL as bargaining agent in industry, and the employers prevented from signing any agreements with Tobin.

A special meeting of furniture workers was held Monday night at Local 544 - CIO headquarters where union officials and attorneys explained all steps taken contemplated to gain the election that the men are demanding.

In addition to challenge Blair's ruling in District Court and presenting the series of petitions to Blair demanding that exercise even-handed justice disqualifying and dismissing AFL petitions on the ground of unfair labor practice, Local 544-CIO this week plans a series of other moves calculated to stop the terrorism of the hoodlums and to expose before the public the farcical Star Chamber proceedings which Blair, glaring AFL bias, seeking to end indefinitely.

Local 544-CIO aims to win quickly as possible the democratic right of elections for the transport drivers of Minneapolis and thus clearly establish the union of the union to represent the drivers. This in turn will force the employers to sit down and negotiate with the union, and will bring to workers involved the higher wages they so badly need to keep up with the skyrocketing living cost.

UNION MEETING SCHEDULE Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO

AUGUST MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, August 1—Job Stewards
Monday, August 4—Package Delivery Department Store
Wednesday, August 6—Seaweed Petroleum
Thursday, August 7—Greenhouse: Independent Truck Owners
Friday, August 8—Wholesale Grocery
Sunday, August 10—Over-the-Road City pickup, dockmen and road drivers who come under the area contract, 2 p. m.
Monday, August 11—General Membership
Tuesday, August 12—Lumber
Wednesday, August 13—Market: Wholesale Liquor

Friday, August 15—Job Stewards

Monday, August 18—Furniture Stores: Coal: Paper and Printing
Thursday, August 21—Text & Apparel: Newspapers, 10 a. m. Wage & Means
Friday, August 22—Cold Storage & Produce
Monday, August 25—Spring Water: Retail
Thursday, August 28—Truckers: Warehouse: Wholesale Drug: Grocery: Committee meets each day at 7 p. m. All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise indicated.
Ice Drivers—2nd Monday, August 11, Day Laborers
Warehousemen—2nd Tuesday, August 12, Stewards, August 24